

Today's thoughts

by Mrs. A. Malcolm

Fifty thousand square miles — dust, flies, kangaroos, emus, and flat, dry, barren plains. Friendly greetings, shy greetings, Christian greetings. Little people, big people, old people, young people. Fair skins, dark skins. All part of God's wonderful creation, all our special interest while God continues to use us in this particular part of His vineyard.

As I think and write, Andrew, Ruth and I are sheltering from the hot sun at Weilmoringle. We are under a construction called a 'bough shelter.' It is made from logs wired together to make a shed like frame and then covered by wire netting over the roof section which is then covered by long grass — the result is nice cool shade.

Arthur has just returned from the reserve where he has been visiting the people in their little humpies. He will now give a Religious Instruction lesson at the school which is a hundred yards from where I am sitting.

On our way from Brewarrina (65 miles) this morning, we stopped for a chat with a road gang who were cleaning out the cattle grids which separate one property from another. We also called at a station homestead where the lady of the house was pleased to talk with us.

We truly have much for which we thank God — response in visitation in both the parish and the hospital, the challenge of my Sunday School class, the opportunities for speaking at services, in Bible studies and at Guild.

We wait with great expectation as our Lord reveals His will in this work. A really wonderful thing has happened — He has selected a group of leaders to commence a Youth Fellowship here. It commenced recently with well over forty youngsters attending. A further revealing of God seems to be in the fact that nearly all these youngsters are of aboriginal descent and from an area where almost no response has been found. We believe God has guided us in answer to our prayers. We all share in all aspects of the work and before we meet with the youngsters we have fifteen minutes devotion in the church. We expect that this venture will expand Christ's ministry in leaps and bounds.



A few hours later — on the homeward run! We have passed three cars! The first was broken down, out of petrol. We sold them some petrol and then had to tow their car to get it started! The second was in a drover's camp and we stopped for a chat with the cook who was setting up camp for the night. The third was a lady driving the opposite way to us.

In your prayers would you share with us in praise and thanks to our Lord for His almighty power and works which we continually discover as we slowly stop trying to witness and work under our own steam and give way to His spirit and drive. Thank Him for real inner peace and a strengthening in faith, and pray that He will reveal to us His desire for our work here.



38 Years of service

On the 4th August the Church Army in Australia becomes 38 years of age and during that time a large number of young men and women have been trained as officers of the Society. They have come from many parts of Australia and they have gone out to many parts of Australia where, by preaching our Lord's gospel of salvation and through their own life of Christian witness, they have helped many to find, amid the rush and bustle of life, the peace and serenity which comes only from Him who is the source of all true peace.

In the pages of this magazine you will read of the activities of some of our officers, of preaching, of visiting and of caring and we hope that, as you read, you will be encouraged to support their work in the same generous way as you have done in the past and that you will continue to uphold them in your daily prayers so that together we may work for the extension of His Kingdom.

As we begin our 39th year we look forward with keen anticipation to the developments which must come in the work of our Society if we are to keep pace with the exciting and challenging developments in the world around us. We must be continually looking for new avenues of service and we must be sure that our officers are trained and equipped to meet every demand that is made upon them.

Development is costly, training is costly, but we believe that if God calls us to a particular task for Him, He will also, through you His people, provide the means by which that task can be accomplished.

An envelope is enclosed for your convenience — use it now.

STOP PRESS:

Congratulations on their inclusion in the Queen's Birthday Honours to:

Our President — The Most Rev. Sir Frank Woods, K.B.E., D.D.

The Chief Secretary of the English Church Army — The Rev. Prebendary Donald M. Lynch, C.B.E., M.A.

One of our Vice-Presidents — The Ven. Archdeacon P. H. Dicker, O.B.E., B.D.

Birthday visits

Following our custom of previous years a team of officers will, during the months of July, August and September, make our Birthday visits to a number of centres and we would be glad if our supporters would note the date of any visit in their area.

It has not been possible to finalise all our plans yet but the following outline will enable you to keep the dates free:

MARK THEM IN YOUR DIARY — NOW

NEWCASTLE — Sunday 30th July
Morning preachments in parish churches
Evening service in the Cathedral at 7.15 p.m.

Preacher — The Rt. Rev. J. A. G. Housden.

This will be the last time we will be privileged to have the Bishop with us before his retirement later this year.

SYDNEY — Sunday 20th August
Preachments in a number of parishes
Tuesday 22nd August — RALLY — St. Andrew's Hall, Wahroonga at 8.00 p.m.

BRISBANE — Sunday 3rd September
Details will be advertised locally.

Victorian preachments will be undertaken towards the end of September but details are yet to be arranged.



TUNING IN FOR 'BUSINESS'

BELROSE TO BUSINESS

College days are over and so are the privileges of being a student. You were only a student, you were excusable for you had lots to learn. You had teachers to teach you, Captains to correct you and friends to encourage and console you. But now you are a Captain and it's not the same because you are not just a Captain, you have the responsibilities of an officer of the Church Army. You are in business! The competition is hard and heavy, the opposition subtle and unprincipled.

Gospel of Christ and search for satisfaction through selfish pursuits.

In this parish the business for me is mainly young people but there are other groups as well. We have two retirement villages and hospitals which deserve a place on the agenda.

Visiting also is a high priority and talking of the Gospel to people personally is always a tremendous challenge.

Footslogging is a part of every army and must always be part of the Church Army of God.

Parish Mission or Youth Service, Sunday School or Scripture Class, Working Bee or Jumble Sale, each one of little significance and yet together vitally important for these are the means through which we communicate our faith to those about us and at any time God may use any of these avenues as an opportunity to perform His miracle of grace. A meeting with Christ, a recognition of sin, a dying to sin, a new life. What a business!

CONCLUSION: College days are now a part of the past and the business of the day fills my life.



Much interest was created through Home Meetings taken by members of the team at the residences of over thirty parishioners and these provided an informal atmosphere for talks and discussions about the Christian faith.

Children's Mission Meetings were held daily in two centres and total attendances came to over seven hundred. The meetings included games, singing, quizzes, teaching and stories, with secret passwords, sentries and competitions. A typical comment from youngsters was "I learned that being a Christian is a lot of fun."

During the week many people were contacted and the Mission Services in the Church proved to be all too few as the growing response and interest of individuals showed that the simple presentation of the reality and power of the Lord Jesus Christ results in commitment to Him for service in His Church.

The team which went to Kempsey was just a small group of ordinary folk who had found that allowing Jesus Christ to be Lord brought power and purpose to life and a desire to share the experience with others. God worked through them, prayers were answered, and some in the parish were able to say and mean, "Into my life your power breaks through, Living Lord."

Captain Frank Clarke.

Photos by courtesy of the Macleay Argus.



TRAIN TO SERVE . . .

The Church Army needs Men and Women communicant members of the C. of E. in Australia to train for evangelistic and social work. Qualifications are—a good basic education, a realisation of God's call, qualities of leadership and a willingness to give truly dedicated Christian service.

- Two years residential course.
- Men and Women 19 to 35 years of age.

Write to:

The Candidates' Secretary,
The Church Army in Australia,
P.O. Box 107, French's Forest, N.S.W. 2086

prison seeing the conditions and discussing with the Church Army Captain and the Chaplain the work in this exacting area of ministry. There are about twelve officers serving as Prison Evangelists and their work is greatly appreciated by the Chaplains. Then on to Liverpool to see a Sunset Home for elderly women and also to meet officers working in the area. The next move was to Birmingham to stay with Captain and Mrs. Ball. Captain Ball served for about 25 years in Eastern Africa where he founded an autonomous branch of the Church Army. Since returning to England last year he has been working as a Prison Evangelist in Birmingham and so I spent some hours in the gaol with him. A particularly interesting piece of work in this city is Granville House where Captain Barry Irons does valuable work for young men involved with drugs or other problems.

Moving further south the next place visited was Oxford where another large Hostel for men meets a real need in the community. From there, a short drive through very beautiful countryside brought us to the mammoth R.A.F. station at Brize Norton. This is where Sister Pat Billington, an Evangelist of outstanding personality and boundless energy, is Chaplain's assistant with an ecumenical team ministering to the 14,000 people who populate this great base. Hers is a unique ministry and, as the only woman member of the team, Pat makes a particularly valuable contribution to the work among the families and the single women. To complete the day we then drove on to Aylesbury and spent some hours at the modern, well-equipped Church Army Youth Centre in this town.

The Church Army has quite a number of officers working with the Chaplains in the Forces, including five with the Royal Navy. So the next stop was at H.M.S. Collingwood in Portsmouth where Captain Bert Cooper is stationed.

Most of the final week was spent in London where, among other things, I visited the Church Army's workshops for disabled men; St. Christopher's Home for school-girl mothers where I had lunch with the girls; Walmer House which is a

Hostel for lads who are homeless and adrift in London; the Counselling Centre; Brookfield House which is a very fine laity training centre where exciting programmes are held to help Christian people grow in their Faith and learn to apply it more realistically in everyday situations.

At the same time, through insights and experiences they are given during the courses, they are helped to see 'how the other half live' and the problems that exist in the application of the Gospel. Visits were also made to some of the Society's many Churchill Houses for elderly people and to the Marie Carlile Home for retired Church Army Sisters where I met Sister Jennett who is a remarkably alert 104 year old! The last two visits were to a courageous work among destitute men (some of whom are alcoholics) in the crypt of an old, disused, down-town church in Spitalfields, and to a brand new Community Centre in a vast new high-rise housing area in north London. A great deal of the new accommodation is in the form of 24 storey blocks of flats.

As a climax to my month with the English Church Army I was included in a large team of officers and students for special preaching activities in the Leicester Diocese, followed on the Monday by a magnificent Rally attended by nearly 2,000 people. The theme, "For Heaven's Sake," was taken from a modern religious song and the words and music of which were written by a young Church Army officer. The words of the first verse and chorus are —

*It's not just a case of live and let live,
It's not just to take what other folk give;
Life's not a chore, a meaningless bore,
You'll see if you hear what we're saying.
For Heaven's sake! What do you think you're
doing?
Don't you know that life is made for living?*

Among the many impressions gained in my time here is that the Church Army is right on the mark in helping people to discover that "life is made for living" and that true living is in Jesus Christ.

Captain'

of her pen. Unfortunately it takes more than five minutes to get a cranky pig back in its pen. On the other hand you might make up your mind to do a lot of work around the orchard or the Homes but later find yourself sitting in the outpatients ward or the dental clinic waiting for one or two boys to see the doctor or the dentist.

Yes, life at St. George's is very busy as it is a big place. To give you a clearer idea of my work, I must first describe the layout of the Homes. St. George's is situated on approximately 200 acres of land at Parkhurst, seven miles north of Rockhampton which has a population of 170,000. It is the only Children's Home run by the church north of Brisbane. There is accommodation for 76 boys between the ages of 2 and 18. The children go to the local state schools, primary, high and opportunity. There are five major buildings on the site

including a church which holds over a hundred people. The homes not only care for the children and provide for their education but they are also given the opportunity of learning farming skills. There is a dairy of over 30 stud guernseys and just recently we were blessed with twins for the first time. Some of the cattle have won prizes at Guernsey Feature Shows. There is a piggery and duck pens and the boys help to feed and care for these animals. In the orchard on top of the hill in front of the church there are 140 orange, mandarine, grapefruit, mango, custard apple and Queensland nut trees.

All of this requires a lot of supervision. My task here is to help the boys to get proper training in every possible way, in the home, on the farm, and in their school and social life. I am actively involved in the local parish of Park Avenue and, as Governor of the Church of England Boys' Society, I am able to take the senior boys from the Homes with me. Teaching scripture in the local schools gives me a contact with the teachers and helps me to watch the progress of the boys and at the same time enables me to do some evangelistic work in the local community.

All of these activities, plus confirmation classes and training a boys' choir make up a full and busy life.

I hope that what you have read will encourage you to pray for us, for the staff and the children, and, above all, that the will of God may be done in this caring ministry here at St. Georges.

Captain Warren Darnley.



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THE WORLD-WIDE CHURCH ARMY:

The Church Army was founded in England in 1882 by Prebendary Wilson Carlile. It is a lay society of men and women Evangelists of the Anglican Communion. Other autonomous societies were founded in the U.S.A. in 1927, Canada 1928, Australia 1934, New Zealand 1935, Eastern Africa 1962, Jamaica 1969. Officers from some of these societies are also at work in Germany, South America, Malaysia, South Africa, British Honduras, Cyprus, Holland and West Pakistan.

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